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FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON
RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS
RUEHZL/EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 000232

SIPDIS

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DEPT. FOR NEA/MAG, EUR/NCE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/21/2017

TAGS: [PREL PHUM LY BU](#)

SUBJECT: BULGARIAN NURSES: GETTING BACK TO EFFECTIVE
DIPLOMACY

REF: TRIPOLI 166

CLASSIFIED BY: AMBASSADOR JOHN BEYRLE, FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D).

1. (C) WE APPRECIATE REFTEL UPDATE ON THE QADHAFI FOUNDATION LETTER AND THE STATE OF PLAY IN TRIPOLI. IT COMES AS THE GOB CONCLUDES TWO DAYS C

2. (C) FEELING -- AND FEEDING -- DOMESTIC PRESSURE ON THE NURSES' FATE, THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT HAS UPPED THE DECIBEL LEVEL, MAKING DIPLOMACY

3. (C) SPECIFICALLY, WE SHOULD:

- EMPHASIZE THE NEED FOR BULGARIANS AND EUROPEANS TO LOWER THE RHETORICAL VOLUME IN PUBLIC;
- ENCOURAGE AN EU UNITED FRONT, BUILDING ON (AND FOLLOWING) THE UK'S LEADERSHIP;
- SUPPORT A NEAR-TERM MEETING OF THE U.S./UK/EU/BULGARIA WORKING GROUP -- WITH LIBYAN PARTICIPATION -- TO RECONFIRM THE OVERALL "DEAL" ON RELEASE;
- COORDINATE CLOSELY TO MANAGE PUBLIC EXPECTATIONS AND AVOID A REPEAT OF THE POST-DECEMBER 19 OUTCRY AND BACKLASH IN THE EVENT THAT THE SUPREME
- ENLIST THE EU'S SUPPORT IN CONVINCING BULGARIA AND LIBYA TO RETURN TO PRIVATE DIPLOMACY.

4. (C) GETTING THE EU AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES ON BOARD NOW IS PARAMOUNT IF THE NURSES ARE TO HAVE A CHANCE OF RETURNING HOME IN THE NEAR

BEYRLE